(c) whether Government are giving clear directives to the company to act as a model employer, as expected of a PSU *vis-a-vis* jobs of perennial nature where contract, casual, contingent and term-based workers are employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Madras High Court has expressed a critical view of the position taken by ONGC in Writ Appeal No. 1290/2006.

(b) Initially, the Writ petitions were filed by the Contractual workers for absorption in ONGC. In the light of Supreme Court judgement delivered in the Air India Corporation matter, ONGC absorbed them as Junior Helpers in January, 1997. In due course of time, they have been given promotions also. In the year 2000, they preferred a fresh Writ Petition No. 21518/2000 before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras seeking their absorption to higher posts of Marine Assistant Radio Operators instead of Junior Helpers. The said Petition was decided in favour of the workers by High Court *vide* Order dated 2nd August, 2006. ONGC appealed against the said Order before Division Bench which upheld the order.

ONGC has filed an appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgement passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras.

(c) ONGC deals with the cases of contract workers as per the prescribed procedures.

Post of CMD of ONGC

4387. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of CMD of Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been lying vacant since long and if so, since when and the reasons for not filling up the post as yet;

(b) whether it is also a fact that panel recommended by Public Enterprises Selection Board for the CMD of ONGC has been scrapped and if so, what are the specific reasons in this regard; and

(c) by when the post of CMD is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) has fallen vacant with effect from 25.5.2006, consequent on the expiry of the five-year term of the then CMD, ONGC. The proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for appointment of Shri R.S. Sharma, Director (Finance), ONGC, from the panel recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) as CMD, ONGC was returned on 6.2.2007 by the Competent Authority with directions to provide for fresh selection from a wider choice including candidates from outside PSUs, and also that the selection of CMD, ONGC be made through a Search-cum-Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, PESB.

The Search-cum-Selection Committee is likely to meet shortly to interview candidates and to give its recommendation. After receipt of the recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee, necessary approvals will be obtained and the appointment of the Chairman and Managing Director made.

Malpractices in LPG supply

4388. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and statistics of action taken under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 for various malpractices, total FIRs registered and their disposal, during the last three years, with States/ year-wise and malpractice-wise break-up;

(b) the statistics and details of action taken by oil marketing companies against the erring LPG distributors in terms of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement; and